

DAVID R. CRAIG
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LORRAINE T. COSTELLO
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION



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CONTACT: Robert B. Thomas, Jr., 410-638-3258

COUNTY COUNCIL ENACTS NEW ZONING CODE

(Bel Air, MD - October 22, 2008) - - After more than a year of work sessions, community meetings and special presentations, the Harford County Council unanimously passed Bill No. 08-44, the Harford County Zoning Code Tuesday night. The legislation, requested by County Executive David R. Craig was the first comprehensive revision of the county's zoning code in nearly 25 years.

"I am extremely pleased with the work of the Department of Planning and Zoning under the direction of Pete Gutwald in crafting a new Zoning Code for the future of

Harford County. Rather than hiring an outside consultant the work was completed totally in-house, saving our citizens tens to thousands of dollars," County Executive Craig stated. "This bill will help Harford County better manage growth and provide for improvements in the quality of living our citizens deserve," Craig remarked.

County Executive Craig, in cooperation with County Council President Billy Boniface, established a diverse work group of county residents and business leaders, in June of last year to help revise the existing Zoning Code. The work group, with assistance from Geosyntec Consultants of Columbia, Maryland, who served as the facilitator for the group, conducted more than 20 work sessions in 10 months before submitting the revised Zoning Code to the County Council for their review and final action.

"Rewriting the county's Zoning Code has been done carefully and thoughtfully, with an eye to the future," the county executive stated. "The process worked and we now have a code which is more reflective of the needs of our citizens," Craig remarked.

Members of the County Council submitted 159 amendments to the proposed Code, before the final vote was recorded. The Zoning Code, a document of nearly 800 pages, was immediately signed into law by County Executive Craig and Council President Boniface shortly after the 7 -0 vote was recorded.